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John R. Gray
2803 Addison Ct.
Pekin, IL 61554

July 27, 2009

Surface Transportation Board
Attn: STB Ex Parte No. 670 (Sub-No. 2)
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-001

Re: Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee (RETAC) Nomination

Dear Anne Quinlan – Acting Secretary:

I, John R. Gray, hereby submit my name to be considered for appointment as a member of the Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee (RETAC) as a biofuels producer. My current employer is Aventine Renewable Energy, Inc. located in Pekin, Illinois where we operate two Ethanol plants that produce a combined total of 157 million gallons of ethanol per year. Aventine also has a 50 million gallon per year plant operating in Aurora, Nebraska. Over the last several years, Aventine has marketed product and handled the transportation for several other ethanol producers as well. I am willing and able to serve on the Committee for a period of at least 3 years.

I have over 28 years of experience in the transportation of liquid bulk energy fuels involving ships, barges, pipelines, trucks, terminals and railcars. Since 1997, I have been deeply involved in developing logistics infrastructure to facilitate the transportation of biofuels into new markets. While with Shell Oil Company, I was involved in developing Unit Train and other high volume ethanol railcar off loading facilities at gasoline blending terminals across the country. I have worked with all of the Class I Railroads and many of the Shortlines to establish efficient and effective logistics for biofuels into many new markets throughout the United States. In addition to having good industry relationships with most of the large ethanol producers, I have worked closely with railroad tank car manufacturers and leasing companies, biodiesel companies, and most of the fuel terminalling companies in the country.

I became a Vice President at Aventine Renewable Energy, Inc. in April, 2006, in charge of Development and Logistics initiatives. I most recently served as Aventine's Vice President of Global Supply and Distribution. During my time with Aventine, I have also been responsible for the acquisition of coal, natural gas and electricity. Since Aventine's current reorganization, I am responsible for all of the enterprise's logistics and transportation as the Senior Logistics Manager. Prior to my employment with Aventine, I was the Manager of Business Development Ventures for Motiva Enterprises LLC, a joint venture between Shell Oil Company and Saudi Resources Inc., where I developed significant ethanol logistics infrastructure and contributed to Shell's global bio-fuels supply strategy. During my 25 year career with Shell, I held positions of increasing responsibility in Products Supply, Trading, and Distribution. I am a native of Indiana, where I studied Business and Transportation at Indiana University. I earned my MBA from Pepperdine University in 1993.

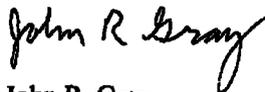
"Providing clean, renewable energy for the world"

Other pertinent experiences that I have had during my career include serving on Shell's Response Action Team for hazardous material incidents as a responder and a coordinator. I also wrote procedures for the safe handling and unloading of rail tank cars at Shell's Argo, Illinois terminal. During my college years, I worked one summer at Union Tanks Car's manufacturing facility in East Chicago, Indiana where I got hands on experience with the nuts and bolts of tank cars. In December 2007, I completed a Hazardous Materials Certification Training program as required by Federal regulations.

In summation, I would be proud to serve my country and represent the biofuels industry by working with the Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee. I could provide input to ensure that renewable biofuels energy is available to existing and new markets throughout the United States. My extensive experience, knowledge, and industry contacts would serve the Surface Transportation Board well.

I appreciate the Board's consideration of my nomination and look forward to hearing from you soon. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly at (309) 347-9373, or via email at john.gray@aventinere.com. Any correspondence can also be sent to my home address above.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John R. Gray".

John R. Gray